

MEANS FOR MEASURING THE LIQUID LEVEL  
IN A RESERVOIR FOR A FUEL CELL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A small fuel cell (10) powers a portable electronic device (12) and contains a  
fuel reservoir (14) and a device (16) that measures the amount of liquid fuel (18) that  
is in the reservoir. The fuel cell operates on hydrogen that is obtained from a liquid  
hydrocarbon fuel, such as alcohol or other hydrocarbons. The liquid fuel is typically  
converted into hydrogen by a reforming process. The reservoir that is connected to the  
10 fuel cell has an indicia (19) that is readable by a human user of the portable electronic  
device, for measuring the amount of liquid hydrocarbon fuel that is present in the  
reservoir. Typically, the indicia consist of a sight glass, a capacitive element, a  
resistive element, a transparent portion of the reservoir, a float, or an acoustic  
transmitter coupled with an acoustic receiver.